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K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
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# The Pileup

## Newsletter of the CDXA

### Presidential Ponderings

There was lots of activity this past weekend in the WPX contest. Nice to have an activity where a W4 call is a multiplier! By now you should have seen the great news from the DXCC desk that the P5/4L4FN operation has been approved for DXCC credit. That should add one to a lot of people's list.

There have been rumblings in recent weeks from the Post Office about raising the first class rate to 37 cents. It is a good opportunity to remind you to keep stamped SASEs with your QSL bureau. Please remember—no envelopes, no cards.

QRP has become a growing activity among CDXA members lately. Gary Dixon, K4MQG, picked up his QRP DXCC over a couple days activity. Gee, it must be nice to be retired!! This certificate is issued by the ARRL

DXCC desk on the honor system, just supply the list of contacts in the usual form but no QSL cards are required.

Tim O'Rourke, KG4CHX, placed third in the Summer Daze contest of the ARCI QRP club last year according to their recent publication. Even better when you consider he was running 2 watts and the other guys were running ten watts!

Just a reminder, we are planning to publish a printed roster in the May Pileup. So, take a look at the website and make sure your data is correct. Changes to Ken, W4NZC. If you want your name in the printed roster and want to receive the May Pileup, be sure your dues are paid.

73, Bill, W4WNT

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA Young Mountain	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.075 MHz (9600 bits/second)
Digipeater near Wingate, NC	144.91 MHz (DXWIN)	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600 )	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Shoney's, 355 Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC (704-525-4395)	

## ERRATA

On Page 5 of the March, 2002 edition of the Pileup a picture purporting to show six members of the CQ DX Hall of Fame is captioned incorrectly. While we were honored to have all these gentlemen in our midst, only Bob Allphin (K4UEE), San Hutson (K5YY), and Wayne Mills (N7NG) are members of the CQ DX Hall of Fame.

## Items for Sale

Bob Burton has some "retired" equipment for sale. These are revised prices from an earlier listing.

Kantronics KPC-9612Plus/128 TNC - \$250  
GE Phoenix 440 radio, two channel. Both channels are CDXA packet node frequencies - \$75

Bob will sell separately or as a package. This gear is a ready-to-go calibrated station for the CDXA Packet-Cluster. Contact Bob at N4PQX@carolina.rr.com.

## Free Local Radio Swap Shop Comes to Web

Mark, KB4QLZ, in Hickory writes: "I have just started an Amateur Radio Swap Page on my personal domain. Ad posting is totally FREE! You can post photos of the equipment that you are selling. There are no banner ads or pop-up windows of any type. You can also post Announcements for your Local Amateur Club on the site. The Swap Page is fully searchable. Registration is not required to post, but it is suggested.

Check out the page at <http://www.kb4qlz.com/cgi-bin/ultimatebb.cgi> . Using the site is totally FREE, and I do not ask for donations."

### The Pileup

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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$30 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$15 otherwise, payable each January. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Ken Cannaday, W4NZC  
1929 Ewing Avenue  
Charlotte, NC 28203

## CDXA Shirt Order for Spring

At the Charlotte Hamfest, a few members asked me when I was going to provide another opportunity to order CDXA shirts with the embroidered logotype. There were perhaps three who asked me, but a few others have indicated they've worn their shirts so much that they're ready for a replacement.

We must order a minimum of six shirts to avail ourselves of the standard embroidery fee of \$5.50. Yep, you did notice that is an increase of \$.20 over the original price of \$5.30. Also, the UPS Ground delivery fees have been increased to \$5.95 from \$4.95 if you wish the shirts drop shipped directly to your address. I'm holding the line for shipping costs at \$1.50 per item ordered if you want the shirts shipped to me for distribution at the luncheon meeting.

An order blank is enclosed with this issue of *The Pileup*. There are two new items in this order. First, we've now made available the Tipped Collar mesh shirt. This shirt has a navy collar tipped with a white band rather than a collar of the same color as the shirt body as in the still available standard mesh polo shirt. It is a pleasing combination, but does cost \$12.50 more than the standard mesh polo. The second new item is a mesh polo with a breast pocket finally available in the same color of Deep Chambray Heather that we've had for the standard mesh polo. I guess the chambray heather color is quite popular!

Please note that you may have your callsign embroidered above the logo for an additional fee of \$5.00 per shirt. This is a nice touch first specified by Roger Burt and subsequently done for many following orders. The callsign will be done in the same yellow thread of the main logo. Be sure to provide the desired callsign on the order blank if you choose to have it embroidered.

I expect to send in the order the last week of April based on orders I've received by that time, so don't tarry. If I don't get enough units to earn the \$5.50 logo fee, I'll give you the option of getting your money back or paying \$11.00 for the embroidery fee.

As always, if you have any special requirements as for women's sizes, tall sizes, XXXL sizes, and the like, get in touch with me. —John Scott, K8YC.



# The Pileup

## Second Front Page

### Wandering Wonder Wields “Winky”—Wets Weddington



**Wandering Wonder observed “taking care of business” on recent sojourn in Weddington.**

The Pileup was not published on Monday, April 1, 2002 due to observance of April Fool’s Day!

Weddington, NC— A miscreant wanted by Federal, State and local authorities in the Southeastern United States for “wetting the walkway” was seen in Weddington recently. Over the past several years, this individual—named the Wandering Wonder by authorities—has been seen relieving himself alongside roadways, usually near a sport utility vehicle or van bristling with all sorts of unidentified aluminum tubing. The Wandering Wonder is often seen in the accompaniment of a woman companion. Both often have been noted to have what appear to be name badges on their clothing, but no authorities have ever gotten close enough to read the name badges or apprehend the culprit.

The recent sudden appearance was noted by a group of distinguished construction experts while supervising a major project on Lester Davis Road. Following shouts of derision from the group to the wanderer for fouling the footway, a chase ensued. Despite valiant efforts, the Wandering Wonder eluded capture. It was rumored that the “wonder” was heading towards a North Carolina mountain hideout. A clue to the identity of the culprit may have been garnered by the event, however. An empty bottle of a premium wine vintage was found near the scene of the “wetting”, and the Wonder was heard to repeatedly make the following incantation: SEEK YOU, SEEK YOU, ANYONE, ANYWHERE. WHISKEY FOR VICTOR HOTEL FOXTROT QUEUE ARE ZED.

Anyone with knowledge of the meaning of the above sentence or the whereabouts of the Wandering Wonder is directed to contact the Environmental Protection Agency, State Highway Patrol, local police agencies or the editor of this newspaper.

## Many Ways to Skin The Cat

By Don Daso, K4ZA

Recently, the K4ZA antenna farm underwent some severe modifications—as many CDXA members know. The tall towers came down and the stacks were moved.

The Charlotte Hamfest came and went. This event never fails to “re-ignite” my somewhat dormant DX-interest (I’m more interested in contesting than DXing, these days). Couple that with a “new entity” showing up on the bands, along with some interesting DXpeditions, and I admit it, I was hooked. I needed antennas.

Not wanting to do anything too elaborate (if my work situation doesn’t improve soon, I’ll be forced to sell this shack QTH and move), I still wanted to work the VP6, the YA, HK0 & the XR0 guys. What to do?

The simple solution said hook up the lower TH-7, giving me 10-20, rotatable 270 degrees around the tower, including out to VP6. (I figured I’d work the boys to the South off the back of the beam). But I still needed WARC band & 80-40 coverage.

The K4ZA treasure trove (junk pile) contained some pieces/parts of old verticals, including a few bases. I grabbed the cleanest looking one and quickly sorted through the aluminum for something that would give me about 24 feet of telescoping tubing. In 15 minutes, I had a vertical for 10 MHz. It took a bit longer to mount it. I used an 8-foot 2X4, elevating the radials (12 of them), so it’s not too difficult to walk around the yard. A quick check with the MFJ analyzer looked good.

The original solution to the WARC-bands (as well as 80/40) was an 80-meter dipole, strung straight between the two towers at the 150 foot level, fed through a transmatch. It worked quite well. So, I decided to slope that dipole off the now much-lower tower. A quick dash up that tower and I had a short extension arm of PVC (tnx to K4BVQ) sticking out and the dipole end mounted. Another dash up a pine tree with the 40-foot ladder and the dipole was up, albeit a lot lower than before. It seemed criminal to cut all that ladder-line, but I was in a hurry. Another quick check in the shack showed that the transmatch settings were different, but they seemed consistent—all requiring a bit more inductance and capacitance per band.

I’m happy to report all the “wanted” countries or DXpeditions are “in the log,” with seemingly little effort. It

took a bit of doing on 80M, but the WARC-band QSOs were amazingly simple. Apparently, big beams are not yet the norm there.

The moral of this story? Necessity is, indeed, the Mother of Invention. And don’t be afraid to try stuff—who’d ever think an old 14AVQ and a pile of aluminum and wire would work so well?

### “New Ones”, DX Police, and Alligators

The four major DXpeditions which occurred in the past month and a half provided examples of both the best and the worst aspects of DXing. On the positive side of things, I am always in wonderment of those who pull together a major DXpedition. There is a great deal of planning to ensure that everything needed to execute a radio operation far away from civilization as we know it comes off without a hitch. Then there is the financial expense that each member of the expedition team incurs on his own behalf for the “privilege” of going to some faraway place to get bitten by bugs or crabs and/or to smell eons of accumulated penguin droppings on a deserted island in the Antarctic. (Those who heard Bob Allphin speak of the South Georgia DXpedition at the Charlotte Hamfest will know of what I speak!) And those of us who stay at home? We may be skilled or lucky enough to work the far away DX station.

Yet, on this last round of DXpeditions, most of us trying to work the “new ones” also got a glimpse of the unsavory side of DXing. I heard a few DX “policemen” actually shout “SHUT UP” to an unsuspecting caller who probably forgot to set up his split operation correctly. You’ve done it, and I’ve done it, but is that kind of “welcome” warranted? Then there was some obvious jamming I heard on at least one team’s frequency. We’ll never know what motivates the jammer. There was the occasional alligator (big mouth and no ears) calling on the DX frequency for five or more minutes, and never hearing even the most abusive DX “policeman” yet proudly giving his callsign on each and every call.

I noted both Carl Smith, N4AA, and Bernie McClenny, W3UR, had articles on DXing manners in their respective columns in CQ and QST. The message? LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN. Be courteous so all have a chance to work the rare DX. This is the same message good DXers have been espousing for decades. Let’s make sure we all follow that lesson. —John Scott, K8YC

## Packets, Protocols, and What-Not's

by John Scott, K8YC

A few weeks ago at a CDXA luncheon, a short discussion ensued regarding addresses on the Internet and setting up routers in one's home for accessing cable systems like "Roadrunner". If a person is not immersed in the internet-working business, talking to a techie in the business provides you with a helping of alphabet soup—you know, TCP/IP, MAC Address, ISP, UDP, OSI, etc., etc. Since I've spent much of the past 20 years involved in data communications, I thought it might be helpful to devote the next few issues of the Pileup to a series of articles to set a framework of what packets, protocols and what-nots are all about. If something is unclear, drop me a note, because if it is unclear to you, it may be to others.

There's a lot of interconnected "stuff" regarding the development of data communications. The more you learn, the clearer it becomes. First, a little history. In the late 1950s and early 1960s when data communications (datacom) was just beginning, most of the transmissions were batch file transfers. In almost all cases, the code to conduct the transfers was written as part of the application. Add a second application, add another data line and another communications terminal. Those engaged in the trade chose to disassociate the process of communications from being so closely coupled to the application and developed specialized outboard communications processors to handle the communications tasks. In the process, datacom could be treated as a "service" to be called by the application. IBM's System Network Architecture (SNA) was one of the first formalized mechanisms. SNA defined a "stack" of functions needed to effect the communications process. Subsequently, or perhaps concurrently, international standards organizations formalized this stack into what was called the

Open System Interconnect (OSI) model. Such models form the basis of what are called communications protocols. A protocol defines the rules via which communications are conducted so both ends of the connection understand how "the game is played". (Just like the diplomatic protocols required in International statesmanship!) The seven layers defined in the OSI protocol model can be remembered by reference to the acronym, "All People Seem To Need Data Processing". These Layers are:

Layer	Function
Application	Defines application specific rules
Presentation	Defines data presentation to users
Session	Defines setup and teardown of connections
Transport	Defines ways to ensure delivery integrity
Network	Defines how data is routed through net.
Datalink	Defines data framing "on the wire"
Physical	Defines physical connections, interfacing

Note this is an idealized model. Specific implementations such as the Internet Protocol (IP) may blend one or more of these formalized layers. The "stack" has two functions—one is to talk to the layers above and below it, and the other is to talk to the comparable layer at the other end of the communications path. Think of the each layer as an envelope encapsulating its information. As an item to be transmitted is moved down the stack, each layer adds its "contents" and wraps its envelope around it. As the "envelopes" are removed at the far end, the comparable layer sees its companion's information. More next month.

## DILBERT

By Scott Adams





## The Back Page

Have you worn your CDXA shirt so much it is frayed? Did you put off ordering a shirt on past orders knowing there would surely be another chance to order? Well, wait no longer! An order form is included with this mailing to allow you to get your very own new shirt from Lands' End embroidered with the CDXA logo. There are two new products on this order form. See details on Page 2 inside.

As the summer months approach, contesting activity is beginning to slow, but there are still a few "fun ones" on the horizon. Coming events:

Date	Event Name	Comments
4/12-13	Japan Int'l HF DX CW Contest	No details. Reference: April CQ, Page 87
4/20	Holyland DX Contest (Israel)	April QST, Page 93
4/20	Michigan QSO Party	April QST, Page 93
4/20	Ontario QSO Party	April CQ, Page 87
4/27	Submarines on the Air	Thirty subs worldwide-Special Event See: <a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SVARA/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SVARA/</a>
4/27	Helvetia Contest	April CQ, Page 87
4/27-28	Florida, Nebraska QSO Parties	April QST, Page 93
5/4-5	ARI Int'l DX Contest	April CQ, Page 87
5/4-5	IPA CW Contest	" "
5/25-26	CQ WW WPX CW Contest	Jan. 2002 CQ, Page 44

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**First Class Mail**

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